

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 15 and ending at line 18, as follows.

--Recently, attention ~~is being~~ has been focused on ~~a~~ sheet material information detecting ~~devices~~ ~~device~~ adapted to obtain information on a sheet material to discern the ~~kind~~ kinds of sheet ~~material~~ materials.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 24 and ending at line 25, as follows.

--~~a~~ force applying means for applying an external force to the sheet material;--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 26 and ending at page 3, line 2, as follows.

--~~an~~ external force detecting means for detecting information corresponding to a force existing after attenuation of the external force applied to the sheet material; and--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 3 and ending at line 8, as follows.

--supplying a sheet material to a position between ~~a~~ force applying means for applying an external force to the sheet material and ~~a~~ detecting means for detecting information corresponding to a force existing after attenuation of the external force applied to the sheet material; --

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 11 and ending at line 19, as follows.

--As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the sheet material information detecting device of this embodiment is equipped with a sheet material displacing means 4, 14 for displacing the sheet material P, which is transported along the sheet material transport path, to an appropriate position, and the application of the external force by the external force applying means 2 3 is effected on the sheet material P displaced by the sheet material displacing means 4, 14.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 17 and ending at line 20, as follows.

--Instead of an impact force, it is also possible to apply vibration to the sheet material P by bringing the external force applying member 20 while kept vibrating into contact with the sheet material P.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 19 and ending at line 27, as follows.

--The external force detecting means may be arranged one-dimensionally or two-dimensionally arranged. When, in the latter case, there is provided a sensor portion having a length that is the same as or larger than the width of the sheet material (e.g., the recording medium), it is also possible to detect the width of the sheet material. Of course, it is also possible to detect the width of the recording medium by a plurality of sensor portions.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 9 and ending at line 19, as follows.

--The displacing member 4, 14 may be arranged constituted such that its protruding amount is fixed within the above-mentioned range, such that its protruding amount can be adjusted, or such that the displacing member can freely move when no external force is applied so as to avoid interference with the sheet material P. When the displacing member is constructed so as to be freely movable, it is possible to reduce the occurrence of problems, such as jamming, and to mitigate a deterioration due to wear of the displacing member.--